

5280, Elwood Community School Corp

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Following a comprehensive survey of the technology needs of the Elwood Community School Corporation, Elwood Middle School and Elwood High School have been identified as most in need of technology upgrades. Recognizing the critical role technology plays in both the academic and personal lives of students, both schools have developed a comprehensive technology instruction plan. These plans are part of each building's PL221 school improvement plan and follow the corporation's new three-year technology plan. The details established, build on essential skills and concepts developed in the elementary program to support higher order thinking and problem solving in content area courses. Being awarded this grant will allow us to implement the first phase of these plans. Students will become more engaged in the learning process. They will better retain information and will be more motivated to learn. This project will have a major impact on every student in grades 6-12.

At present, Elwood Middle School has only one LCD projector in the building for all staff to share. Due to limited availability, teachers are unable to use this technology as an effective tool in the classroom. The scope of this project for the middle school is to add a mounted projector (30) and an interactive tablet (30) to every classroom. We will also be purchasing eight classroom response systems for this building.

Currently Elwood High School has five mounted projectors in the English department. This project will add mounted projectors (30) and interactive tablets (35) into the remaining classrooms, so that students in all subject areas will have access to this technology and the instructional benefits that it provides. Eight classroom response systems will be purchased for this building as well.

Success of the project will be determined by a variety of benchmarks. We will conduct multiple teacher and student surveys throughout the 2009/10 school year to determine the progress in the use of technology in the classroom. Student improvement will be monitored by scores on the ISTEP+, STI Common Student Assessment, and NWEA tests. Elwood Middle School has never made AYP. This project will assist us to differentiate instruction and better meet the needs of all of our students, especially our special education and the economically disadvantaged students. The high school goals include improved scores on end-of-course assessments and an increase in advanced placement participation.

Staff development in this project will be focused on increased teacher use of technology to support student learning. Specifically, how the use of the projector, tablets, and response systems will positively affect the instructional methods and support Indiana curriculum standards. In addition to the mechanics of using these tools, staff will have appropriate training on how to effectively use technology in the classroom to enhance and enrich their own curriculum. The use of online resources along with PowerPoint, Excel, and textbook software will be a major focus of the professional development activities outlined in this application.

We have chosen to partner with South Madison Community School Corporation because of their exceptional professional development program. This relationship with South Madison has developed during the last nine years through a county wide educational consortium called CAPE (Community Alliance to Promote Education). CAPE began as a K-3 reading initiative and has grown to affect all grade levels by improving collaboration between schools in Madison County. It has also increased parental involvement and improved parental leadership within each community. South Madison is a leader in the use of technology as an effective tool in the classroom. We are excited about the opportunity to work closely with them to improve our integration of technology in the classroom.